




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

March 29, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: EWTS
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy Van Atten 
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Updates/Changes

This memo is to inform you of some updates/changes to our program. Attached are some documents that you are required to read, understand, and implement immediately. They include the:

- Enforcement Update (NEFOP Observer Incident Report, on NEFOP website)
- Pre-Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC) (NEFOP Memo 10-002)
- Updated Sturgeon Cheat Sheet
- News From NOAA: Cooperative Research on Monkfish Migration
- 2010 Sea Scallop Fishing Year Coverage Rates (NEFOP Memo 10-006)

The Enforcement Update attachment is included to inform observers of the interactive form (NEFOP Observer Incident Report) that can be emailed to Tom Gaffney (hard copy also required – see memo for details).

The PTVSC attachment is to inform observers of modifications made to the checklist for scanning purposes.

Recent sturgeon misidentifications led to an evaluation of the identification cheatsheet whereby NEFOP staff felt that some of the images provided were misleading. Due to this, we have updated and clarified the sturgeon identification tool, and enclosed it here. Specific changes include a new layout, improved identification characteristics, photos and photographic guidelines, color coding by species, and cautions on the head/snout variation in Atlantic sturgeon. Replace your old sturgeon cheat sheet with this version immediately.

The News from NOAA is an informative article that not only describes the cooperation between fishermen and scientists, but also reminds observers to keep an eye out for tagged monkfish, and to remind fishermen to keep a look-out for them as well, as a healthy reward is offered for

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returned whole specimens. Observers are asked to read this material, and start implementing any new rules, regulations, and requests immediately.

Finally, the Sea Scallop memo clarifies the sea day schedule for the upcoming fishing year.

If you have any questions regarding any of the attachments, please contact Katherine McArdle at Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov or 508-495-2377.

Thank you.

